

FIGHTERS FOR FREEDOM OF ISRAEL

D A I L Y   P R E S S   B U L L E T I N

No. 45

Tel-Aviv, 16th September, 1948

1) TIMELY RAINFALL.

("Mivrak", 16.9.48.)

A rain of compliments is about to descend on us during the eight weeks remaining before the presidential elections in the U. S. Meantime we have already been blessed with a light shower.

This shower fell from the lips of Mr. Bartley Crum. We have nothing at all against this nice gentleman, nor do we question the sincerity of his statements. We are certainly not going to bear him a grudge for naming the Jordan, and not the Euphrates, as our eastern boundary, so long as official leaders of Israel are quite content with the Yarkon; as to his unequivocal pronouncement concerning Jerusalem, we can only be grateful to him for it. He certainly would have been shouted down at the present Mapam Conference, the main task of which is to preserve the boundaries of the 29th November and uphold the internationalization of Jerusalem.

So far everything is fine. But when Mr. Crum begins singing paeans of praise to President Truman, the effect is that of a knock-out blow, delivered straight into our face, beaming at him with friendliness and trust. Not because we know that President Truman could lift the embargo and could grant us an immediate "de jure" recognition were not he what he is - a stooge of those who provide funds to support him and his party, but because of an immediate realization of the fact that presidential elections are quite near. It becomes then clear why President Truman chose Mr. Crum as his personal envoy, and not one of his secretaries and advisers who do not draft his speeches for him, but exercise a decisive influence over his policies.

U. S. press, especially Jewish press, will give much space and prominence to Mr. Crum's pronouncements concerning our boundary lines and Jerusalem, not omitting to mention (in bold type)

that he is President's private envoy and repeating his praise of Mr. Truman.

But Representative Summers has decidedly outshone Mr. Crum. He accused certain State Department circles of sabotaging Pres. Truman's promises. (Does not this remind one of those sinister circles in the Foreign and Colonial Offices that used to sabotage Britain's best intentions?) Having thus completely exonerated President Truman, Representative Summers goes a step further. He scorns the loan of paltry hundred million dollars, he insists on three hundred. The more the better.

This is truly a timely rainfall. It will help to raise votes in the U. S. and false hopes in Eretz-Israel.

2) FORGERIES.

("Mivrak", 10.9.48.)

There are many forgerers in the world and their forgeries are numerous, but one would be wrong in applying the same measure to all of them.

The Jewish Underground could not have survived even for a single day without recourse to technical forgeries. There was price on the head of fighters, so they had to use forged documents, dye their hair, wear false beards, unnecessary spectacles etc. Dov Rosenbaum was hanged under that name, although his real name was Yehezkiel Drezner. The name was false, but the gallows and death were genuine enough.

In the State of Israel, blessed with official forgerers, when Jerusalem was abandoned to its fate and Shaltiel's care, how could arms be delivered to the defenders of the city when the mainroad, open to every spy and foreign agent bearing the U.N.O. flag, was closed to Fighters for the Freedom of Israel? So their passage was made possible by use of forged papers. In this case only slips of paper were forged - the arms that pinned down the Arab Legion to Jerusalem and saved the State of the Plain were genuine. So was the blood that stained the walls of the City of David.

There are certain forgeries without which there could have been no victory parades in the Stadium of Tel-Aviv.

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But there exist forgeries of a different kind; though contributing nothing towards victory they, nevertheless, make victors.

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The list of forgeries committed not for the sake of the liberation of the people, but in order to hide from it paralysis of thought and will is rather long. Some of them have already been and some will yet be disclosed. Many more will be yet committed.

Whether the forgerers of this kind will be ever tried and punished is a moot question.

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"The world wants to be deceived, so let it be deceived", says a Roman proverb, made venerable by age and long practice.

Modern civilization has created new, vastly improved methods of satisfying that crave. They are called "information" and "propaganda".

With us propaganda plays an especially important role for several reasons. First of all, being a democratic people we have, in the opinion of our democratically elected public institutions, to be constantly fed on propaganda. This kind of propaganda is called "authoritative information".

Secondly, ours is the age of miracles, as our Prime Minister says. In the Twentieth Century miracles are expected to have scientific explanation. In our case this is extremely easy. The establishment of the Jewish State and other historical achievements have nothing miraculous, we are told: they are simply a result of the political genius and heroism of the Prime Minister and his colleagues, and of the firm stand of the "organized Yishuv", notwithstanding the numerous stabs in the back, delivered by the British hirelings, the dissidents. So this is the second task of propaganda: to empty the history of the recent years of its true contents, filling it instead with... propaganda. In other words, the second task is that of forging history.

The third task is, however, the most important of all: to create certain atmosphere and temperature for purposes that have nothing to do with history, but have a practical object: to consolidate the existing regime.

Whether to fashion iron or merely to roast chestnuts, one must use certain temperatures.

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The third task poses before the official propaganda a number of difficulties. We are now wallowing in the quagmire of truce. Its temperature is low. Resumption of hostilities

would produce the necessary heat, but that is taboo. So temperature must be raised by artificial means, by forgery.

The best way is to impress upon the people that the danger is not yet over, that it is in fact extremely grave, the enemy is at the gate stronger than ever etc., etc., so to avert the impending calamity we must (a) increase conscription, (b) place the maximum number of the civilian population under the orders of some sort of commanders until the whole nation becomes one vast army of truce, (c) tighten the belt, (d) waste more money on the truce and (e) undermine our trade and industry through lack of manpower.

Exaggerating the enemy's strength is extremely useful. It may be handy to justify future concessions and explain failures, or - in case of a victory - add laurels. Long live the victorious Prime Minister!

As to other means, they will help the Government to gain under the pretext of emergency a full control over the whole life of the nation and to prepare properly for "free and democratic" elections. Dissidents, of course, will be liquidated in the process.